University of Southern Mississippi
Southern Station - P.O. Box 1773
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401
March 15, 1972

Dear Hal,

This is a letter I've been trying to get off for almost a month now. The enclosed letter from Dr. Lattimer just arrived a couple of weeks ago, and I know it will interest you. As you predicted, he states he has no evidence, that this merely reflects his personal bias. However, his invitation leaves us wide open for whatever direction we may wish to take in the matter. I await your judgment on this before taking any further action. If you would like, I will be happy to write him again, but I will need some specifics as to what we're trying to get. The instability which he himself possesses and projects on Oswald and Ruby makes it all the more clear that like many rightists he is driven by an ulterior obsession, which can be exposed with little prodding. Although he pretends like so many to leave himself open for new evidence, he has certainly locked his mind into an abnormal fixation regarding Oswald and Ruby, even confabulating them as members of a Communist cell block.

What confuses me somewhat in this respect is his reference to the "similarity" between A. Hidell and A. Hitler. Have you ever thought of this before, or heard it before? This must be original, and is uniquely interesting; I'll be anxious to hear your interpretation. The point is lost on me, if Oswald were a "dedicated Communist", why he emulated Hitler. I know Marina started the myth that the name was intended to imitate "Fidel", and Albert Newman suggests he merely added on his own initials "L.H." around the name. But the comparison with Hitler is new to me.

The only thing I can think of in this respect is relative to a bumper sticker put out by Ed Butler, which reads, "Hitler Is Alive And Well In Havana", and depicts Castro smoking a cigar, exhaling a smoke ring in the shape of a swastika. Further I can recall hearing an address by Congressman John Rarick of Louisiana, who escaped from a German P.O.W. camp in WW2, and is the hero of the Goldwater people I used to know in New Orleans. "There is no difference between the tyranny and Godlessness of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany, and the inhumanity and nihilism of Communist Russia." The ultra-right in this respect deludes itself, I believe, and plays on the mass antipathy toward Hitler, in order to foster his ideals,

much in the way Hitler used Christianity to foster anti-Semitism. (I do not have the bumper sticker anymore. I gave it to Bringuier, who practically drooled over it. He took down the address of Butler in Los Angeles, whom he had not seen in some time evidently.)

Speaking of Bringuier, while going through some old tapes, I managed to stumble across that part of the interview I did with him that you said was missing from your copy, that I sent you. It was on a smaller reel that did not come out clear at the end, and we thought the whole tape had not come out, so we started again. Unless you request otherwise, however, I will not send it, as it does not appear valuable in a probative sense. It is mainly his comments on Garrison's book, which are not favorable. The first regards the Tippit murder. He quotes Garrison as stating, "None of the witnesses saw the shooting of the officer..." yet a little later he speaks of the witnesses at the lineup "including those who saw the murder of Officer Tippit." Bringuier says, "How could they have seen his murder if they didn't witness the shooting? He wasn't stabbed, was he?" Also, he takes serious exception to the D.A.'s account of his encounter with Oswald. "Bringuier obliged and struck Oswald." I remember I was shocked when he pointed those words out to me on the printed page. I don't think anyone, including Oswald, ever alleged that Bringuier actually hit Oswald. If you do want a copy of this, just send me back the tape I sent you, and I'll add it on, and also adjust the speed, which you said was too fast (the original was done on a portable recorder, probably American made; the Japanese ones are more reliable, and cheaper, but we were in a hurry.) Let me know anyway, and on anything else you'd like me to do, including this Lattimer letter.

As I say, do try to give me a picture of what exactly you want. I assume it is to give him enough rope to hang himself, in order to discredit his false opinions about the X-rays and photos of the autopsy.

Speaking of which, I was interested and amused by your comment re Dr. Nichols ("zany"), although I'm sure he is more qualified than this nut to examine them. I'm sure you have (or at least have read) the transcript of the Shaw trial. The defense asked Dr. Nichols if he had discussed the autopsy matter with Connally, and he replied, "I requested an appointment with him, but he rejected me." And later they asked him if he'd discussed it with Dr. Finck; again he said, "He also rejected me." I shouldn't think that's funny, but it is, in an un-funny way.

Also, in the transcript, going over some written accounts I have, I notice something I had missed before, that Mrs. Garner testified that David Ferrie visited Oswald's apartment shortly after the assassination. This struck me, especially after we tried to see her that night, and you asked me to list all of the visitors she mentioned in her testimony to Liebeler. I did not know that Ferrie had gone there later, and the attorneys seemed to have missed it also.

I agree with your delineation of the Museum in the Dal-Tex bldg. There is a definite need for such a thing, but not so commercial, as(Hugh Aynesworth wrote) "a gawdy concession stand". Somewhat contrary to your advice, I went ahead and bought the record albums they had. The KLIF one is very interesting, and another, more of a memorial type, from Hearst Metrotone (newsreels); the others are memorial, speeches. One thing the Commission never did, and should have, was to collect all of the tapes and footage of actualities, which might have provided a differing perspective. I wonder if it is too late to do this, and/or if it might not be done on the King case? I don't want to make the same mistake I did with Garrison, by assuming that Bud's large files already contain all this.

Although this would be a monumental undertaking, don't assume anything, either, as I would be glad to do it, and anything else you think of as time goes by.

Getting back to Bringuier and Butler for a moment, I recall something I intended to discuss with you when you were down here, when we were to go to my house and Long Beach. You mentioned in a previous letter a hassle over the debate records with Oswald, but I do not find this in Oswald In N.O. as you mentioned. INCA's version, I believe, is uncut, unedited as aired. Plus of course much self-serving propaganda by Butler and company. Another version, which we call "pirated" in the Radio-TV department here, put out by Key Records, edits out Bringuier and Oswald, and dubs in Billy James Hargis reading the words of Stuckey, Slatter, and Butler. The album jacket indicates that Hargis actually was a participant, although the record wasn't made until 1964 when Bringuier joined Hargis' rubber chicken circuit. I have lengthy correspondence with the owner of Key Records, Vick Knight, on this, and come to find out they say the source for the recording was the "Cuban Student Directorate in N.O."! Do you already know all this? This is one thing I'm really sorry we didn't get to talk about when you were down here, as I know alot about it.

Well, look forward to hearing from you, and hope this finds you well.

Was so sorry to hear about the accident with your thumb! Hope it has healed by now. How did it happen?

Please take care, and fill me in on everything. Also, when something breaks on the Ray case, please do let me know, as the papers and radio-TV down here are notoriously unreliable. Having worked in it for a while, I am more fully aware of the hit/miss nature by which it operates, and it is sickening. This is not true everywhere.

In addition to feeling free to sending me large things to take care of for you (even including a trip to N.O., Tenn., or Dallas, as I go to those cities anyway), also feel free to phone me anytime. The numbers are below. If one doesn't work, keep trying until one does. Someone can take message somewhere. The Hattiesburg phone/address good until mid-May, when I'll be graduating, and will then advise as to whereabouts. Until then, please take care. I don't want anything to happen to you; you might wind up on Penn Jones' list as number 103 or whatever the count is now. Keep in touch; hope to see you again soon.

Sincerely your friend,

P.S. I cannot begin to tell you how deeply I appreciate your job recommendation. It is kept confidential, but I know it was more than I deserve, and I am very grateful.

P.P.S. DO PHONE ME COLLECT AT ONE OF THE NUMBERS ON THE NEXT PAGE WHEN ANYTHING BREAKS ON RAY'S APPEAL. IF THERE IS A HEARING OR HOPEFULLY A NEW TRIAL MAYBE WE COULD MEET IN MEMPHIS. I'D BE READY ON AN HOUR'S NOTICE.

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